

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 06010 051249Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-01 SR-02 SY-05 AID-05

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O 051215Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 178

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 5, THE 95TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 5986

1. SUMMARY. THE KHMER AIR FORCE REPORTS SINKING
OVER 50 SAMPANS APPARENTLY FERRYING TROOPS FROM THE EAST
BANK OF THE MEKONG TO THE WEST BANK NORTH OF BANAM. THE
46TH BRIGADE SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED ITS PHNOM BASET
HEADQUARTERS NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH AND HAS REPLACED THE
43RD BRIGADE ON THE NORTHERN DIKE. IN MR III A CLEARING
OPERATION BY THMAR PUOK FORCES CAUSED 70 KC KILLED. KAF
FLEW ONLY 14 T-28 SORTIES APRIL 4 AND THE AIR FORCE IS IN
DANGER OF BECOMING INEFFECTIVE DUE TO MAINTENANCE NEEDS.
FANK REPORTS 22 ROCKETS HIT AT POCHENTONG DAMAGING THREE
C-123'S LIGHTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. KAF GUNSHIPS AND T-28'S DESTROYED 10 LARGE SAMPANS
AND OVER 50 SMALLER BOATS PRESUMABLY FERRYING KC
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 06010 051249Z

TROOPS FROM THE FALLEN TOWNS OF BANAM/NEAK LUONG TO

THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG FOR EVENTUAL ACTION SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST OF PHNOM PENH.

3. THE 45TH BRIGADE (7TH DIVISION) EVACUATED ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM ISOLATED PHNOM BASET AND HAS REPLACED THE 43RD BRIGADE ON THE NORTHERN DIKE. (SEVEN HUNDRED 45TH BRIGADE TROOPS AND FAMILY MEMBERS REMAIN AT PHNOM BASET.) THE 43RD HAS MOVED BACK TO ITS PARENT UNIT, THE SECOND DIVISION. IT WILL BE NEEDED WHEN THE KC OPEN THE SOUTHERN FRONT.

4. NORTHWEST OF BATTAMBANG IN MR III, THMAR PUOK PROVINCE FORCES CLEARING THE ROAD TO SVAY CHEK KILLED 70 KC WHILE SUFFERING 14 DEAD AND 37 WOUNDED THEMSELVES.

5. KAF FLEW ONLY 14 T-28 SORTIES YESTERDAY AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS HAVE PUT THE AIR FORCE IN DANGER OF LOSING ITS TACTICAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUING MAINTENANCE WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL GROUND FORCES PUSH THE KC OUT OF ROCKET RANGE OF THE AIRBASE'S OPERATIONAL AREA.

6. FANK REPORTS TWENTY-TWO ROCKETS EXPLODED AT POCHENTONG DAMAGING THREE C-123'S. THIS COUNT IS LOW; 40 INCOMING ROCKETS IS A MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATED.
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